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EXAMINER

ROSE, HELENE ROBERTA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/613,059 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SANGRONIZ, JAMES M. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Helene R. Rose    | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2163                    |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2 July 2003</u>   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### **Detailed Description**

1. Claims 1-31 have been presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-31 have been rejected.

### **Claim Objections**

3. Claims 9,14,19,23, and 25-26 are objected to because of the following informalities:  
Claims 9,14,19,23,and 25-26 contains either one of the following acronyms "XSL, or XSLT".  
The following acronyms must be spelled out to indicate what the acronym stands for.  
Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112**

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 1-3, 11,and 15-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1-3, 11,15-16,20, and 26-31, the limitation " to achieve a user product properties" renders the claims indefinite because there is insufficient antecedent basis in these claims. The recitation of "to achieve a user product properties" in claims 1-3, 11,15,16,20, and 26-31 don't convey the full recitation of "one or more user-desired product properties" and its unclear what is meant by the above limitation phrase. Therefore, it is difficult for the examiner to interpret the claim without knowing what the term "one or more user-desired product properties" constitutes. Thus, all claims 1-3,11,15,16,20, and 26-31 have been examined with the examiner's broadest reasonable interpretation as herein.

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Claims 17-19, and 21-23 are rejected under 112, second paragraph because they depend from the rejected independent claim.

Claim 24 is rejected under 112, second paragraph because it depends from the rejected dependent claim 22.

### **Claim Rejections –35 U.S.C 102**

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-5,10,12,15,17,20,22-24,and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Volkoff et al (US Publication No. 2002/0184240).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

#### **Claims 15 and 1:**

Regarding claims 15 and 1, Volkoff teaches a workflow management system for managing workflow in a printing system (see Figure 1, all features and see page 2,

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paragraph [0023], wherein a workflow is routing a user request, i.e. a job request, Volkoff), comprising:

one or more devices (see Figure 3, diagram 80, Volkoff) configured to process a user request (page 5, paragraph [0051], wherein processor may be configured as it responds to a request, Volkoff), the one or more devices communicatively coupled to a communications medium (page 1, paragraph [0006], and [0009] Volkoff); and

a workflow management device (see Figure 4, diagram 70, wherein WFC is a workflow controller, Volkoff) comprising:

a communications interface (see Figure 2, diagram 30 and page 3, paragraph [0034], wherein the front end service may be a Internet web browser, Volkoff) configured to receive the user request (page 1, paragraph [0006], Volkoff), the interface further configured to communicate with the one or more devices located external of the workflow management device (page 11, paragraph [0121], wherein the processors known as the devices are external of the workflow controller, Volkoff);

a storage device configured to store rules data for processing the user request (page 1, paragraph [009], wherein the database stores data through the job ticket service, Volkoff), the user request comprising one or more user desired product properties (see Figure 2, all features, wherein each node diagram represents job tickets for other services and page 3, paragraph [0030], Volkoff); and

processing circuitry (page 13, paragraph [0139], wherein an integrated circuit having a main or central processor section, Volkoff) configured to process the request using the rules data and produce a transformed request (see Figure 9, diagram 135 and page 11, paragraph [0117], wherein the completion of each node in the node tree the processor may

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provide input to the job ticket service to allow modification of the job ticket, Volkoff), the transformed request comprising information for automatically organizing workflow through the system to process the one or more user-desired product properties, to produce a user-desired product (page 11, paragraph [0119], wherein the request defines a workflow to accomplish tasks specified in the job request and page 13, paragraph [0137], wherein a desired user file is presented, Volkoff).

Claim 10:

Regarding claim 10, Volkoff teaches a workflow processing device (page 2, paragraph [0024], Volkoff) comprising:

a style sheet having defined rules for processing a user request (page 2, paragraph [0028], wherein the inside pages are produced in brochure, the brochure may use digital content to generate plates for printing the brochure, Volkoff<sup>1</sup>); and

processing circuitry configured (page 10, paragraph [0139], wherein integrated circuit having a main or central processor section, Volkoff) to receive the user request (page 3, paragraph [0032], wherein the service center may include components that receive information in the form of job request, Volkoff), load the defined rules (page 5, paragraph [0050], wherein the workflow controller may use agents to load capabilities of the processors, and time constraints in the job request, Volkoff), and execute the defined rules (page 6, paragraph [0062], wherein the performance requirements are the executed defined rules, Volkoff) to create a transformed request (see Figure 9, diagram 135 and page 11, paragraph [0117], wherein the completion of each node in the node tree the processor may

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<sup>1</sup> The Examiner defines the term "style sheet" to be a list of page format specifications, including layout specifications, such as desktop publishing, wherein a style sheet can be stored, retrieved, and applied to the page displayed on the screen.

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provide input to the job ticket service to allow modification of the job ticket, Volkoff), and wherein the transformed request, comprises instructions to automatically organize workflow to efficiently process the user request (page 11, paragraph [0119], wherein the request defines a workflow to accomplish tasks specified in the job request and page 13, paragraph [0137], wherein a desired user file is presented, Volkoff).

Claims 20 and 30:

Regarding claims 20 and 30, Volkoff teaches a workflow assignment system (page 3, paragraph [0032], wherein service center may select one or more processors to assign to the job ticket based on the client supplied criteria, Volkoff), comprising:

means for receiving a user request (page 3, paragraph [0032], wherein a service center receive information in the form of job request, Volkoff), the request having one or more user-desired product properties (page 3, paragraph [0031], wherein the variety of e services such as e-printing, online shopping, and e-commerce are the user desired properties, Volkoff);

means for creating a style sheet having defined rules for processing the user request (page 2, paragraph [0028], wherein the inside pages are produced in brochure, the brochure may use digital content to generate plates for printing the brochure, Volkoff);

means for loading the defined rules and the user request into a processing means configured to process the user request (page 5, paragraph [0050], wherein the workflow controller may use agents to load capabilities of the processors, and time constraints in the job request, Volkoff); and

means for executing the defined rules (page 6, paragraph [0062], wherein the performance requirements are the executed defined rules, Volkoff) to create a transformed

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user request (see Figure 9, diagram 135 and page 11, paragraph [0117], wherein the completion of each node in the node tree the processor may provide input to the job ticket service to allow modification of the job ticket, Volkoff), the transformed user request, comprising additional information to organize workflow to perform the one or more user-desired product properties to produce a user-desired product (page 11, paragraph [0119], wherein the request defines a workflow to accomplish tasks specified in the job request and page 13, paragraph [0137], wherein a desired user file is presented, Volkoff).

Claim 27:

Regarding claim 27, Volkoff teaches a method of managing workflow in a printing system (see Figure 1, all features and see page 2, paragraph [0023], wherein a workflow is routing a user request, i.e. a job request, Volkoff, comprising:

receiving a user request (page 3, paragraph [0032], wherein a service center receive information in the form of job request, Volkoff), having one or more user-desired product properties in a first processor (see Figure 2, all features, wherein each node diagram represents job tickets for other services and page 3, paragraph [0030], Volkoff);

Claim 31:

Regarding claim 31, Volkoff teaches an article of manufacture (see Figure2, all features, Volkoff) comprising:

processor-usable media embodying programming configured to cause a processing circuitry of a workflow management device (page 13, paragraph [0139], Volkoff) to:



receive a user request, the request having one or more user-desired product properties (see Figure 2, all features, wherein each node diagram represents job tickets for other services and page 3, paragraph [0030], Volkoff);

create a style sheet having defined rules for processing the user request (page 2, paragraph [0028], wherein the inside pages are produced in brochure, the brochure may use digital content to generate plates for printing the brochure, Volkoff);

load the defined rules and the user request into a processing circuitry configured to process the user request (page 5, paragraph [0050], wherein the workflow controller may use agents to load capabilities of the processors, and time constraints in the job request, Volkoff); and

execute the defined rules to create a transformed user request (page 6, paragraph [0062], wherein the performance requirements are the executed defined rules, Volkoff), the transformed user request, comprising additional information to organize workflow to perform the one or more user-desired product properties to produce a user-desired product (page 11, paragraph [0119], wherein the request defines a workflow to accomplish tasks specified in the job request and page 13, paragraph [0137], wherein a desired user file is presented, Volkoff).

Claims 2 and 11:

Regarding claims 2 and 11, Volkoff teaches wherein the transformed user request (page 2, paragraph [0027], wherein a transformed user request is done by a user modifying a job ticket, Volkoff) is received by a controller configured to control the workflow to perform the one or more user-desired product properties (page 6, paragraph [0059], wherein the

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workflow controller, other components in the network may be used to develop and overall workflow to complete the job request, Volkoff).

Claim 3:

Regarding claim 3, Volkoff teaches wherein the transformed request comprises additional information to process the user request (pages 7- 8, paragraph [00080], wherein additional information to process a user request land line phones, facsimile machines, contacts in the contact database use mobile phones, and email addresses, Volkoff) accordance with specifications of the user (page 8, paragraph [0081], wherein the specification are made by a user such as searching the database for phone, Volkoff), and the additional information comprises information to route and process the one or more user-desired product properties (page 8, paragraph [0083], wherein delivery options are specified by a user to a destination address and process the desired delivery options, Volkoff), and information to prioritize processing of the one or more user-desired product properties (page 10, paragraph [0110], wherein the workflow controller can determine which of the processors should complete a specific process, and if necessary, the order in which such processes should be completed, Volkoff).

Claims 4,12,17, and 22

Regarding claims 4, 12, 17, and 22, wherein the user request is received in a job definition format (page 3, paragraph [0034], wherein a user request is described in a job request wherein the format is a job definition format, Volkoff).

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Claims 5 and 24:

Regarding claims 5 and 24, Volkoff teaches wherein the interface is configured to receive the user request via the Internet (page 3, paragraph [0034], wherein the digital imaging work (DIW), includes a front end service that allows a client to generate and submit a service or job request and the embodiment of the front end service may be an Internet web browser, Volkoff).

Claim 28:

Regarding claim 28, Volkoff teaches a method further comprising:

transmitting the modified document to a second processor configured to route the workflow to process the user request having the one or more user-desired product properties using instructions from the modified document (page 4, paragraph [0040] and [0042], wherein modification may be to indicate a branch as complete, use up input resources, or create new output resources such as second processor could attempt to acquire branches, but not know that the first processor had modified the branch, Volkoff ).

Claim 29:

Regarding claim 29, Volkoff teaches wherein the instructions comprise instructions to assemble the workflow (page 5, paragraph [0049], wherein the lower level nodes provided detailed instructions to a processor to perform a specific process, Volkoff), and instructions to decide how the one or more user-desired product properties should be processed through the printing system (page 4, paragraph [0046], wherein if a job ticket requires color printing, the work flow controller may determine that only processor 80<sub>3</sub> is a color printer with the capacity to begin the job specified in the job ticket, Volkoff).

**Claim Rejections – U.S.C 103**

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 6-9, 11, 13-14, 16, 18-19, 21, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Volkoff et al (US Publication No. 2002/0184240) in view of Yalcinalp (US Patent No. 6,507,857).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(I)(1) and § 706.02(I)(2).

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Claims 6,13, and 18:

Regarding claims 6, 13, and 18, Volkoff discloses all the limitations above, However, Volkoff is silent to wherein the data comprises instructions written in Extensible Style sheet Language. On the other hand Yalcinalp discloses wherein the data comprises instructions written in Extensible Style sheet Language (column 6, lines 55-57, Yalcinalp). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Volkoff with Yalcinalp teaching wherein the data comprises instructions written in Extensible Style sheet Language. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so by incorporating Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL hereinafter) for the reason that provides formatting of source elements based on uniqueness; the creation of formatting constructs including generated text and graphics; and it utilizes two key extensions which are Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT), which automatically converts the Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents to another specified language such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), and XSL Formatting Objects, wherein it allows you to locate, share, and combine information more easily (i.e. semantic web).

Claims 7 and 25:

Regarding claims 7 and 25, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the processing circuitry is an XSLT processor (see Figure 1, diagram 110, Yalcinalp).

Claims 8,14, and 19:

Regarding claims 8,14, and 19, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the processing circuitry applies XSL transformation to the user request to produce the transformed user request (column 5, lines 61-64, Yalcinalp)

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Claim 9:

Regarding claim 9, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches, wherein the data is stored in a style sheet within the storage device (see Figure 2, diagram 215, wherein Style sheet and external component processing is implemented into the XSLT Processor and see Figure 1, diagram 110, wherein the XSLT Processor is stored within the memory and wherein memory, diagram 102 is also stored within the secondary storage device, diagram 112, Yalcinalp), and the style sheet comprises instructions written in an XSL format (column 6, lines 55-57, Yalcinalp).

Claim 11:

Regarding claim 11, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the user request comprises one or more user-desired product properties (column 2, lines 27-28, wherein tags are associated with user input document, Yalcinalp), and wherein the transformed request comprises information to process the user request (column 2, lines 32-35, wherein results are associated with the external component, Yalcinalp).

Claim 16:

Regarding claim 16, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches a system further comprising:

a controller configured (see Figure 2, diagram 205, wherein its configured to handled the all features within the diagram, Yalcinalp) to receive the transformed request (column 6, lines 43-46, Yalcinalp) and assign the one or more user-desired product properties to the one or more devices for processing using information from the transformed request (see figure 2, all features, wherein a user request is being processed, Yalcinalp).

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Claim 21:

Regarding claim 21, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches a method further comprising:

receiving the transformed user request in a controller (see Figure 2, diagrams 200 and 205, wherein the controller is the XSLT processor, Yalcinalp); and

controlling the workflow to process the one or more user-desired product properties using information from the transformed user request (column 2, lines 38-42, wherein the external component may include loading the external component into the XSLT processor and initiating the execution method, Yalcinalp).

Claim 23:

Regarding claim 23, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the creating comprises creating the style sheet in XSL format having instructions written in Extensible Style sheet Language (column 6, lines 55-57, Yalcinalp).

Claim 25:

Regarding claim 25, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the loading and the executing are performed by an XSLT processor (columns 2-3, lines 55-67, and lines 1-2, respectively, Yalcinalp).

Claim 26:

Regarding claim 26, Volkoff in combination of Yalcinalp teaches wherein the creating the transformed user request comprises applying the defined rules (see Figure 2, diagram 205, all features, Yalcinalp) and using XSL transformation to the user request (see figure 2, diagram 205, wherein the XSLT is the XSL transformation which is the acronym for

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extensible Style Language Transformation, Yalcinalp), and the transformed user request comprise definition of workflow tasks to be performed (column 2, lines 50-55, Yalcinalp), settings and properties for the workflow tasks (column 4, lines 63-65, wherein the transformation engine consist of an Application Program Interface wherein its sets routines and tools for communicating with software applications, Yalcinalp), and one or more user-desired product properties to produce a user-desired product (column 2, line 27, wherein tags are associated with the input document and column 2, lines 45-46, wherein the one tag represents and external component, Yalcinalp)

generating a document with the one or more user-desired product properties; defining a set of rules (column 7, line 35, wherein parameters is equivalent to rules, Yalcinalp) using which the document is processed (column 7, lines 27-35m wherein the processing the tags contained within the style sheet to generate the transformed document, Yalcinalp; and

processing the document using the defined set of rules to create a modified document (column 7, lines 37-42, Yalcinalp), the modified document having instructions to organize workflow (column 7, lines 46-56, Yalcinalp) to perform the one or more user-desired product properties to produce a user-desired product (column 7, lines 55-58, wherein the results of tag processing includes external components and the new document is transmitted to the user, Yalcinalp).

#### **Prior Art of Record**

1. Volkoff et al (US Publication No. 2202/0184240) discloses a job ticket service allows clients to define databases, and to store data though the job ticket service.



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2. Yalcinalp (US Patent No. 6,507,857) discloses systems and methods using a Namespace paradigm to define an external component reference to a style sheet, wherein the style sheet processor processes the tags in a style sheet, it recognizes the external component declaration. The style sheet will contain a name of the external component instance and a definition of the method to execute associated with the external component instance.

### **Point of Contact**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene R. Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Helene R Rose  
Technology Center 2100  
December 16, 2005

